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[Government Home](#)

[Search](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact Us](#)



March 23, 1998
(Justice)

The following statement was issued today by Chris Decker, Minister of Justice. It was also read in the House of Assembly on his behalf by Ernest McLean, Minister of Government Services and Lands:

I am pleased to announce today, on behalf of the Minister of Justice, that government has made a \$50,000 donation to the Newfoundland and Labrador Ground Search and Rescue Association.

As all members know, our province is well served by the volunteers who comprise our search and rescue teams. It is government's intention to give them both the recognition they deserve and the resources they need to carry out their good work.

There are 28 ground search and rescue teams in Newfoundland and Labrador and more than 1,000 volunteers. They play a vital role when it comes to assisting our police forces to seek lost or missing persons.

The Honourable Member for Port au Port has been instrumental in making this House of Assembly and government aware of the services provided by our search and rescue teams. It is largely due to his efforts and those of Harry Blackmore, the president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Ground Search and Rescue Association - who is present in this House of Assembly today - that we are making this announcement.

This \$50,000 contribution will enable the association to carry out its duties more efficiently and effectively. Mr. Blackmore has advised me that one of his first actions will be to buy additional equipment for the equipment the teams and to refurbish existing equipment.

I am pleased to make this announcement today on behalf of the Minister of Justice and I wish the Newfoundland and Labrador Ground Search and Rescue Association every success in their very worthwhile endeavours.

1998 03 23

2:30 p.m.



[Home](#)

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